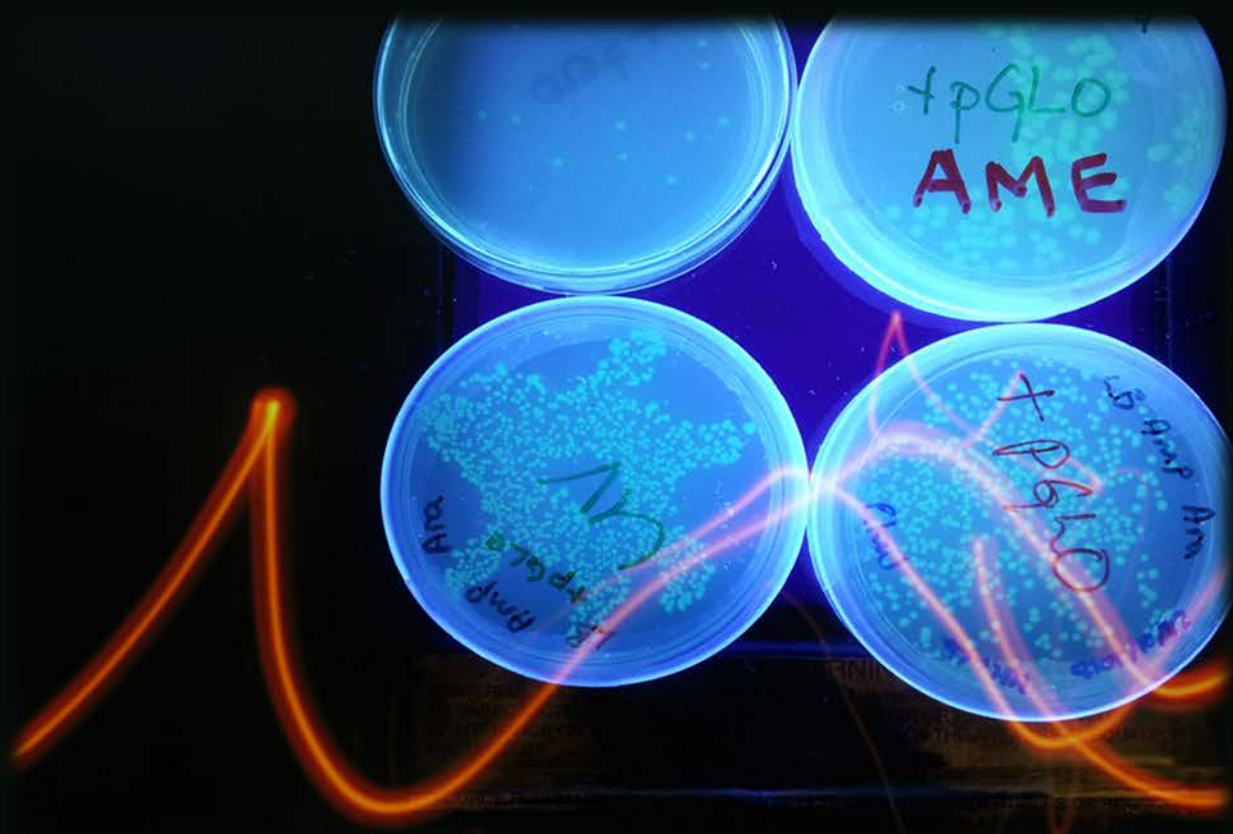


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Uncontainable Life: A Biophilosophy of Bioart

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How does life come to matter through bioart? What can a dialogue between philosophy, science, and art tell us about the boundaries between the living and non-living, organic and inorganic, and, ultimately, life and death? What is the relation between life and waste in the context of both bioscience and bioart, and how does this relation shape our understandings?

Uncontainable Life: A Biophilosophy of Bioart investigates the ways in which thinking through the contemporary hybrid artistico-scientific practices of bioart is a biophilosophical practice, one that contributes to a more nuanced understanding of life than we encounter in mainstream academic discourse. When examined from a feminist perspective, bioartistic projects reveal the inadequacy of asking about life's essence. Instead of examining the defining criteria of life, bioartistic practices explore and enact life as processual and always already uncontainable, thus transcending preconceived material and conceptual boundaries. In this way, this doctoral thesis concentrates on the ontology of life as it emerges through the selected bioartworks: "semi-living" sculptures created by The Tissue Culture and Art Project and the performance *May the Horse Live in Me* (2011) by L'Art Orienté Objet. The hope is that such an ontology can enable future conceptualisations of an ethico-politics that avoids the anthropocentric logic dominant in the humanities and social sciences.

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